

During his service in the Marine Corps and Army, Joe was decorated for Combat Action and received other awards for personal leadership, achievement and meritorious service; including the Purple Heart for wounds received in action in Iraq. His units were cited in Joint Meritorious Unit Awards, Valorous Unit Award, Navy Unit Commendations, Meritorious Unit Commendations, Navy Battle E, Navy Sea Service, Army Overseas, and other Service and Campaign Medals for his 3½ years spent overseas in five tours with Marine and Army Units.

He is a volunteer by nature and has applied his entire adult life to serving others in the military, public safety, veterans' groups, and non-profits. He has been active in veterans' affairs for 25 years, notably organizing the Keweenaw Detachment #1016, Marine Corps League and Copper Country Chapter #789 Military Order Purple Heart with Vietnam veterans Gary Mattson and Tom Heikkinen. Joe continues to serve as a volunteer Michigan CCP Firearms Instructor and U.S. Army Ambassador for CRSC/TSGLI claims. He is a Christian and man of faith in God. He serves his local church in many capacities, and he and his wife, with their dog, Sunny greatly enjoy wandering the wilderness of the U.P. of Michigan and across America. The Copper Country is greatly honored to have Joe as the Grand Marshal of the Sixth Annual Parade of Thanks in Michigan's Keweenaw.

RECOGNIZING THE 63RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 63rd anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel, declared on May 14, 1948. Israel has provided Jews from all over the world with the opportunity to reestablish and participate in a Jewish state and society in their ancient homeland, the Land of Israel, with the city of Jerusalem as its undivided capital. Not only is Israel home to many religious sites sacred to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, but Israel has provided a refuge to Jews who survived the unprecedented horrors of the Holocaust and Jewish refugees who fled persecution around the world.

The people of Israel have established a pluralistic democracy that includes the freedoms cherished by the people of the United States, including freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of association, freedom of the press, and government by the consent of the governed. Israel continues to serve as a shining model of democratic values by regularly holding free and fair elections, promoting the free exchange of ideas, and vigorously exercising in its Parliament, the Knesset, a democratic government that is fully representative of its citizens.

Additionally, Israel has bravely defended itself from terrorist and military attacks repeatedly since independence. With thousands of rocket attacks from violent extremist groups in Gaza against Israeli civilian targets in recent years that have caused hundreds of casualties and have destroyed homes, schools, build-

ings, roads, power lines, and other significant infrastructure, Israel has stood strong. Even with the deaths of over 1,000 innocent Israelis over the last several years at the hands of murderous, suicide bombers and other terrorists, the people of Israel stand strong. Israel continues to seek peace with their Palestinian neighbors and have signed landmark peace treaties and successfully established peaceful bilateral relations with neighboring Egypt and Jordan.

Moreover, Iran, which continues to reject Israel's right to exist as a nation, remains a continued threat to Israel's safety and security, both through its support of terrorist groups like Hamas and Hezbollah and through its ongoing efforts to acquire nuclear weapons.

A strong and valuable ally, the United States and Israel enjoy a strategic partnership based on shared democratic values, friendship, and respect. The United States share a deep affinity with the people of Israel and view Israel as a strong and trusted ally. Not only was the United States the first nation to offer de facto recognition, but did so only 11 minutes after the creation of the state of Israel.

In recognizing the 63rd anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel, I reaffirm enduring, bipartisan support for the alliance and friendship between the Governments and peoples of the United States and Israel, for Israel to exist as a democratic Jewish state, and for its right to defend itself. I look forward to continued cooperation in resolving future mutual challenges and extend warm congratulations and best wishes to the people of Israel as they celebrate independence.

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF CALLAHAN, FLORIDA

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Centennial Celebration of the Town of Callahan in Nassau County, Florida, which received its Charter on May 23, 1911. It is my privilege to represent the warm, friendly people in this small municipality. Although it is only 1.3 square miles in size, Callahan stands at the crossroads of major transportation links to Jacksonville and Georgia. For the surrounding rural, isolated farms, Callahan is town.

As with much of Northeast Florida, the railroad brought development and people to what had been wild, wet timber lands and home to the Timucuan Indians. Callahan was no exception. More than 150 years ago, David Yulee, owner of the Florida Railroad Company and Florida's first U.S. Senator, hired a seasoned railroad man named Daniel Callahan to prepare the land for the laying of railroad tracks across the middle of Nassau County. Many of Florida's pioneer family members worked on the rail for 23 cents a day. At that time, the economy mostly centered on the logging business although herds of cattle, horses and hogs roamed the still unfenced countryside as farmers and ranchers worked hard under the Florida sun.

During construction, a railroad station was built where the tracks cross Kings Road, now

called U.S. 1. A post office soon followed. The Sharon Baptist Church was already there surrounded by farms. The railroad turned the sleepy settlement into a bustling rail camp, and a town was born. Years after Daniel Callahan had moved on to build other railroads, the people officially named the town in his honor.

Today, the historic train depot is home to the Greater Nassau County Chamber of Commerce and the West Nassau Historical Society. For the past several years it has hosted the Railroad Days Festival, where hundreds of folks come to enjoy small-town activities like parades, clowns, American flags, face painting, and ax throwing contests, and of course, model train displays in the lovingly restored old wood building. Also on site is a restored rail segment and caboose, a favorite of the children.

Although a significant retail district grew nearby the depot and a block of beautiful brick stores replete with balconies remains, Callahan's town center has moved slightly north from the railroad track to the intersection of A1A, Lem Turner Highway, and U.S. 1. Here several red brick government buildings, along with small shops—some national franchises but many local longtime businesses, continue to serve the folks surrounding the Town. Two restaurants have large local followings—The Pig and the Chicken House. If you want good barbeque and a cold glass of sweet tea, you can't find a better place than in Callahan.

Almost everyone in Callahan attends church, and church activities are the backbone of most weekly social events. But Callahan also boasts annual events, like the Blueberry Festival, the Northeast Florida Fair, the Rodeo, and the Christmas Parade that draw hundreds of visitors.

As we celebrate the Centennial Anniversary of this charming rural community in West Nassau County, I congratulate my good friend, Mayor Shirley Graham, the Town Council, and all who have made this occasion special. But I especially laud the townspeople and those who live just outside the town limits on their neighborliness, their can-do spirit, and small-town warmth. When I think of what makes up the heart and soul of America, I need look no farther than Callahan, Florida.

NATIONAL NURSING HOME WEEK

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize National Nursing Home Week, which began nationwide on May 8, and concludes on May 14th. This year's theme, "Fulfilling the Promise," was selected to honor those who are serving others, thus adding value to life. National Nursing Home Week is a time to reach out to older Americans in these facilities who have given so much to our communities and country. They are our loved ones, our veterans, our teachers, nurses, friends, and much more.

It's also a time to better understand the valuable work of nursing home staff. They provide quality care day in and day out, focusing on person-centered care so that elderly and disabled residents can live life in a meaningful